IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

LUCIO E. GONZALEZ,	§	
Plaintiff	§	
	§	
V.	§	2:18-CV-0046
	§	
THE GEO GROUP, INC., AND WARDEN	§	
GEORGE HEAD	§	
Defendants	§	

NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO FEDERAL COURT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

NOW COMES The GEO Group, Inc., Defendant in the above styled and numbered cause, and files this Notice of Removal. As grounds for removal, Defendant respectfully shows the following:

- 1. The GEO Group, Inc. is the Defendant in a civil action pending in the 105th Judicial District Court in Nueces County, Texas, styled *Lucio E. Gonzalez v. The GEO Group, Inc. and Warden George Head*, Cause No. 2017-DCV-3972-D, which was filed in that court on August 29, 2017. The Plaintiff, Lucio E. Gonzalez, alleges he was assaulted as a result of Defendant's negligence. Defendant contends Plaintiff alleges damages sufficient to invoke this Court's diversity jurisdiction.
- 2. This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). Gonzalez alleges he is a resident of Laredo, Webb County, Texas. The GEO Group, Inc. is a citizen of the State of Florida, the state in which it is incorporated and in which it has its

principle place of business, so removal is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) because the

parties are completely diverse.

3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), attached hereto are copies of all process,

pleadings and the orders served upon Defendant in the state court proceeding. (Exhibit

A).

4. The action was commenced on August 29, 2017. Defendant was served with

summons or citation on February 6, 2018, through its registered agent for service of

process in the State of Texas.

5. This notice of removal is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because the removal is

within thirty (30) days after Defendant first received a copy of a paper from which it

could first ascertain that the case is one which is or has become removable. Murphy

Bros., Inc. v. Michetti Pipe Stringing, Inc., 526 U.S. 344, 354, 119 S.Ct. 1322, 143

L.Ed.2d 448 (1999) (Removal deadline runs from date of service); City of Clarksdale v.

BellSouth Telecomms., Inc., 428 F.3d 206, 210 (5th Cir. 2005) (same).

6. The United States District Courts have original jurisdiction over this action based

on complete diversity of citizenship between the parties, in that every properly joined

defendant is now, and was at the time the action was commenced, diverse in citizenship

from every plaintiff. Plaintiff is alleged to be a resident citizen of Webb County, Texas.

Defendant, The GEO Group, Inc., is, and was at the time the suit was commenced, a

citizen of the State of Florida, the state in which it was organized and in which it has its

principle place of business. Accordingly, none of the properly joined defendants is a

Defendant's Notice of Removal *Gonzalez v. The GEO Group, Inc.*

citizen of the State of Texas, and the parties are completely diverse. Plaintiff's petition, attached, asserts a claim against Defendant in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs; therefore, this Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1).

- 7. Venue is proper in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Corpus Christi Division, as the district and division embracing the place where the state action is pending. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a), 1446(a).
- 8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Defendant intends to serve written notice of this removal upon all interested and adverse parties and upon the Clerk of the Court for the 105th Judicial District Court of the State of Texas, Nueces County, Texas, promptly after filing this Notice of Removal.
- 9. There are no other defendants, properly joined and served, to join in or consent to the removal of the action. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A). Note that Plaintiff named George Head as a non-diverse defendant. However, Head has not been served, and he has been misjoined under governing law.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, The GEO Group, Inc., the Defendant in this action, pursuant to these statutes and in conformance with the requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446, removes the case styled styled *Lucio E. Gonzalez v. The GEO Group, Inc. and Warden George Head*, Cause No. 2017-DCV-3972-D, pending in the 105th Judicial District Court, Nueces County, Texas, on this 14th day of February, 2018.

Respectfully Sub-

State Bar No. 00787474 FITZPATRICK & KOSANOVICH, P.C. P.O. Box 831121 San Antonio, Texas 78283 (210) 408-6793 skf@fitzkoslaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify service of a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument on the following interested person(s) on February 13, 2018, via First Class United States Mail, and email:

Guillermo G. Del Barrio, Jr. 6010 McPherson, #120 Laredo, Texas 78041 memo@delbarriolaw.com

Exhibit A

Cornorate Creations Network Inc.

11380 Prosperity Farms Road #221E, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

February 7, 2018

The GEO Group, Inc. John Bulfin Senior VP & General Counsel The GEO Group, Inc. 621 N.W. 53 Street, Suite 700 BOCA RATON FL 33487

SERVICE OF PROCESS NOTICE

The following is a courtesy summary of the enclosed document(s). ALL information should be verified by you.

Note: Any questions regarding the substance of the matter described below, including the status or to whom or

where to respond, should be directed to the person set forth in line 12 below or to the court or government Item: 2018-67 agency where the matter is being heard. Client Entity: The GEO Group, Inc. Title of Action: Lucio E. Gonzalez vs. The GEO Group, Inc. and Warden George Head 2. Document(s) Served: Citation for Personal Service 3. Plaintiff's Original Petition Civil Case Information Sheet Court/Agency: Nueces County 105th Judicial District Court 4 5. State Served: Texas 6. Case Number: 2017DCV-3972-D 7. Case Type: Negligence/Personal Injury Method of Service: Certified Mail 8. 9. Date Received: Tuesday 2/6/2018 10. Date to Client: Wednesday 2/07/2018 CAUTION: Client is solely responsible for verifying the accuracy of the estimated Answer Due Date. To avoid missing a crucial deadline, we recommend immediately confirming in writing with opposing counsel that the date of service in their records matches the Date Received. 11. # Days When Answer Due: See Notes Answer Due Date: See Notes 12. SOP Sender: Guillermo G. Del Barrio, Jr. (Name, Address and Phone Number) Laredo, TX 956-753-7636 Shipped to Client By: Email Only with PDF Link 13. 14. Tracking Number: Not Applicable 15. Handled By: 441 16. Notes: Please review the enclosed documents in order to calculate the response due date.

NOTE: This notice and the information above is provided for general informational purposes only and should not be considered a legal opinion. The client and their legal counsel are solely responsible for reviewing the service of process and verifying the accuracy of all information. At Corporate Creations, we take pride in developing systems that effectively manage risk so our clients feel comfortable with the reliability of our service. We always deliver service of process so our clients avoid the risk of a default judgment. As registered agent, our role is to receive and forward service of process. To decrease risk for our clients, it is not our role to determine the merits of whether service of process is valid and effective. It is the role of legal counsel to assess whether service of process is invalid or defective. Registered agent services are provided by Corporate Creations Network Inc.

Citation for Personal Service -RESIDENT



Case Number: 2017DCV-3972-D

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

TO: The GEO Group Inc. By Serving Corporate Creations Network, Inc. 2425 W Loop South #200 Houston Tx 77027

the Defendant.

GREETING: You are commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition; Civil Case Information Sheet at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of 20 days after the date of service of this citation before the Honorable Jack W. Pulcher, 105th District Court of Nueces County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County in Corpus Christi, Texas. Said Petition was filed on the 29th day of August, 2017. A copy of same accompanies this citation.

The file number of said suit being Number: 2017DCV-3972-D

The style of the case is: Lucio E Gonzalez vs. The Geo Group Inc, Warden George Head

Said Petition was filed in said court by Guillermo G. Del Barrio, Jr., attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 1120 Matamoros Laredo Tx 78040.

The nature of the demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the Petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly mail the same according to requirement of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court at Corpus Christi, Texas, this 29th day of January, 2018.

ANNE LORENTZEN, DISTRICT CLERK

NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS 901 LEOPARD STREET, ROOM 313 ORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

vonne N. Garcia

RETURN OF SERVICE

2017DCV-3972-D

LUCIO E GONZALEZ VS. THE GEO GROUP INC,WARDEN GEORGE HEAD

105TH DISTRICT COURT

Name	

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE
The Geo Group Inc
Corporate Creations Network
2425 W LP South #200

<u>.</u>	OFFICER'	S OR AUTHORIZ	ED PERSON	'S RETURN		
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date of delivery endorsed th		he accompanying co	opy of the			
NAME	DATE/TIMI		PLACE, CO	OURSE & DIS	STANCE FROM C	COURTHOUSE
And not executed as to the						
The diligence used in findir	ng said defendant(s) be	eing:				
and the cause of failure to e	xecute this process is:					
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Fees:					, Officer	
Serving Petition and Copy	\$				O	Texas
Total	\$	Ву			, Deputy	
COMPLETE IF YOU	J ARE A PERSON C	THER THAN A S	HERIFF, CO	NSTABLE, O	R CLERK OF TH	IE COURT.
In accordance with Rule 10 signature is not required to return shall be signed under	be verified. If the retu	ırn is signed by a pe	rson other than			
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			Declarant / Aut	thorized Proces	ss Server	
			ID# & Expirati	on of Certifica	tion	

Filed 8/29/2017 12:01 AM Anne Lorentzen District Clerk Nueces County, Texas

CAUSE NO	017DCV-3972-D
LUCIO E. GONZALEZ Plaintiff	§ IN THE DISTRICT COURT
VS.	§ JUDICIAL DISTRICT
THE GEO GROUP, INC. AND WARDEN GEORGE HEAD Defendants	§ NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

. . .

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

NOW COMES LUCIO E. GONZALEZ (hereinafter called "Plaintiff"), complaining of THE GEO GROUP, INC. AND WARDEN GEORGE HEAD (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants"), and for cause of action show unto the Court the following:

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

A. Discovery Control Plan

1. Plaintiff will request that the Court enter a discovery order under Level 2 of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.4.

B. Parties

- 2. Plaintiff is a resident of Laredo Webb County, Texas.
- 3. Defendant The Geo Group is a Florida Corporation doing business in Texas. It can be served with process by serving CORPORATE CREATIONS NETWORK, INC., 2425 W. Loop South #200, Houston, Texas 77027.
- 4. Defendant Warden Geroge Head is an individual resident of Nueces County,
 Texas and can be served with process at 4909 FM 2826, Robstown, Texas 78380.

C. Jurisdiction

- 5. The subject matter in controversy is within the jurisdictional limits of this court.
- 6. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendant Head is a resident of Texas.

D. Venue

7. Venue in Nueces County, Texas is proper pursuant to Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Section 15.002 (a) (2) because it is the county where this cause of action accrued.

E. Facts

- 8. On or about August 26, 2015, the Plaintiff Gonzalez was being housed at Defendant Geo Group's facility, Coastal Bend Detention Facility, located in Robstown, Nueces County, Texas. Plaintiff was being held on a supervised release violation. On August 26, 2015, Plaintiff was set to be transferred along with other inmates.
- 9. Plaintiff was a known and confirmed member of the Mexican Mafia. Due to his affiliation he was placed in segregation and was to remain in segregation throughout the duration of his stay. This included any transportation to and from other facilities or court appearances.
- 10. On August 26, 2015, Mr. Gonzalez was to be transferred to a Houston airport for his destination to serve the remainder of his prison sentence. Prior to being transferred, Mr. Gonzalez was asked again if he was a confirmed Mexican Mafia member. He acknowledged his membership. When being boarded Mr. Gonzalez was shacked and had a "black box" that limited his movements unlike the general population.
- 11. The reason for segration of certain gangs is their issues with rival gangs within the prison system. This is known not only within the The Geo Group, Inc. prisons but every prison throughout the nations. Gangs are intentionally separated to avoid fights and other sort of violence amongst the rival gang members. Mr. Gonzalez had been transported to the Coastal

Bend facility from the Rio Grande Detention facility two weeks prior and proper precautions were taken.

- 12. On the day of August 26, 2015, the precautions of separation were not taken. Although Mr. Gonzalez was asked and he confirmed about his gang affiliation, the officials of the prison did not follow proper procedures and proceeded to put Mr. Gonzalez' health and life at risk. The prison officials had Mr. Gonzalez housed in segregation due to the known fact that he was a member of the Mexican Mafia. It was well within the knowledge of the prison. Mr. Gonzalez further confirmed although the prison had him earmarked as a confirmed member.
- 13. As they proceeded to load the prisoners, Defendants were negligent in following procedures by placing Mr. Gonzalez with the general population knowing the conflict that would arise. General population houses a high rate of rival gang members. The prison officials knew this. Mr. Gonzalez was being transported to the Houston area along with several members of the Paisas gang. It is known that the Paisas and Mexican Mafia are rivals are purposely separated due to the tensions between the two gangs.
- 14. As he was loaded into the van, Mr. Gonzalez advised the guards of his affiliation again. They recklessly ignored his request to be housed separately. The guards determined that he would have to be placed in segregation but they were transporting females and the females were to be transported in the area in which Mr. Gonzalez would have been transported. He was put with the rival gang members. The guards simply told the other prisoners to stay 3 seats away from Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez was shackled much more tightly than the other prisoners. His mobility was extremely limited due to how he was shackled as opposed to the other prisoners who were much more mobile.
- 15. Upon leaving the detention center, the rival gang members confirmed that Mr. Gonzalez was Mexican Mafia. Gang members are easily distinguished by their tattoos. Mr. Gonzalez has identifying tattoos confirming his affiliation. In addition, the difference in

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shackling and the orders given by the guards to remain at least 3 seats away from Mr. Gonzalez made the identification process that much more easy.

- 16. Upon being identified, Mr. Gonzalez was approached by five (5) rival gang members who were simply placed in handcuffs with a chain around their waist. The Paisa gang members were very mobile compared to Mr. Gonzalez' compromised position. The Paisas were able to remove the chains around their waists to use as weapons in additions to the handcuffs. They proceeded to beat Mr. Gonzalez by kicking him, punching him and hitting him with the makeshift weapons of the chains and handcuffs.
- 17. Mr. Gonzalez could hear the guards yelling for the Paisas to return to their seats and stop the beating. They did not do so. The guards continue to dirve for what Mr. Gonzalez estimates "at least 15-20 minutes". It could have been more. Mr. Gonzalez was severely beaten. He suffered many injuries including a broken wrist, contusions and a concussion. Mr. Gonzalez is lucky to have survived the incident.
- 18. Mr. Gonzalez was flown to Oklahoma to be treated for his major injuries. He was required to receive medical attention that required a hospital stay.

F. Count 1 - NEGLIGENCE

19. Defendants were negligent through their employees in allowing the transportation of the inmates described in the paragraphs above. Policy or not, the drivers upon the attack on Mr. Gonzalez failed to properly act and protect Mr. Gonzalez as they kept driving while Mr. Gonzalez continued to be assaulted. Although Mr. Gonzalez was documented as a Mexican Mafia member, which required segregation, including during transportation, and they failed to do so even after Mr. Gonzalez brought it to their attention, as well. It was further confirmed by ordering the other prisoners to stay away from Mr. Gonzalez. The rivals were simply separated by 3 seats. Additionally, Mr. Gonzalez could not defend himself due to the restraints, which significantly limited his mobility as others were free to roam and beat him.

- 20. Defendants knew the procedures and disregarded them and negligently put Mr. Gonzalez' health and life at risk. They knew or should have known the potential harm that they put Mr. Gonzalez in upon loading him into the van.
 - 21. Through no fault of the Plaintiff was injured by the Defendants' negligence.

G. Count 2 - GROSS NEGLIGENCE

22. Defendants were grossly negligent through their employees in allowing the transportation of the inmates described in the paragraphs above. Defendants' conscience indifference to the safety of Mr. Gonzalez led to Mr. Gonzalez injuries. Defendants knew of the potential dangers that faced Mr. Gonzalez upon transportation with rival gang members.

H. DAMAGES

- 23. As a direct and proximate result of the occurrence made the basis of this lawsuit, Plaintiff sustained the following damages:
 - A. Reasonable medical care and expenses in the past. These expenses were incurred by Plaintiff for the necessary care and treatment of her injuries resulting from the incident complained of herein and such charges are reasonable and were usual and customary charges for such services in Webb County, Texas;
 - B. Reasonable and necessary medical care and expenses which will in all reasonable probability be incurred in the future;
 - C. Physical pain and suffering in the past;
 - D. Physical pain and suffering in the future;
 - E. Physical impairment in the past;
 - F. Physical impairment which, in all reasonable probability, will be suffered in the future;
 - G. Loss of household services in the past;
 - H. Loss of household services in the future;
 - I. Mental anguish in the past;
 - J. Mental anguish in the future;

- K. Lost earning capacity in the future;
- L. Exemplary damages;

. . . .

- M. Punitive damages; and
- N. Physical disfigurement.

I. Prayer

- 24. For these reasons, Plaintiff asks that she be awarded a judgment against Defendant in excess of the Court's minimum jurisdictional limits for the following:
 - A. Actual damages and punitive/exemplary damages
 - B. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest.
 - C. Court costs.
 - D. All other relief to which Plaintiff is entitled

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF GUILLERMO G. DEL BARRIO JR.

6010 McPherson Rd. #120 Laredo, Texas 78041 Telephone: (956) 753-7636 Facsimile: (956) 753-8865

By: /s/Guillermo G. del Barrio, Jr. Guillermo G. del Barrio Jr. Texas Bar No. 24049078 memo@delbarriolaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

. . . .

Filed 8/29/2017 12:01 AM Anne Lorentzen District Clerk Nueces County, Texas

CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET 2017DCV-3972-D

Cause Number (for clerk use only): Court (for clerk use only):							
STYLED Lucio Ganzalez v. The Geo Group, Inc. et al							
(e.g., John Smith v. All American insurance Co; in re Mary Ann Jones; in the Matter of the Estate of George Jackson)							
A civil case information sheet must be completed and submitted when an original petition or application is filled to initiate a new civil, family law, probate, or mental health case or when a post-judgment petition for modification or motion for enforcement is filled in a family law case. The information should be the best available at the time of filling.							
1. Contact information for person	n completing case information	sheet:	Names of parties is	CRSe:			or entity completing sheet is:
Name:	Email: Plainte		Plainuiff(s)/Peritione	r(s):		DPm Sc	ey for Plaintiff/Petitioner Plaintiff/Petitioner
Guillermo G. del Barrio, Jr.	memo@delbarriolaw.com		Lucio Gonzalez]	☐Title IV-D Agency ☐Other:	
Address:	Telephone:			Additional Parties in Child Supp			Parties in Child Support Case
6010 McPherson Rd #120	956-753-7636		Defendant(s)/Respo				
City/State/Zip:	Fax:		The Geo Group and				
Laredo	956-753-8865	956-753-8865		Non-Custodial Parent:			odial Parent;
Signature.	State Bar No:			Presumed Father:			Father.
	24049078		[Attack additional page as				
2. Indicate case type, or identity		case (selec	(only 1):				
	<u>Civil</u>					Fan	ily Law Post-judgment Actions
Contract	Injury or Damage		Real Property		nge Reinti	onsiúp	(non-Title IV-D)
Debt/Contract Consumer/DTPA Debt/Contract	Assoult/Battery Construction Defamation		ninent Domain/ indemnation		☐ Annulment ☐ Declare Marriage		☐Enforcement ☐Modification—Custody ☐Modification—Other
Frand/Misrepresentation Other Debt/Contract:	Malpractice Accounting	Quiet Title		□w	□ With Children □ No Children		Title IV-D Enforcement/Modification
Foreclasure	Legal Medical	Other Property:			Disc Citation		Paternity
Home Equity—Expedited	Other Professional Liability:			<u> </u>			Reciprocals (UIFSA) Support Order
Franchise	Motor Vehicle Accident	Related to Criminal Matters		Oth	Other Foundy Law		Parent-Child Relationship
☐Insurance ☐Landlord/Tenant ☐Non-Competition	Premises Product Liability	Ex	punction Igment Nisi	Ente	Enforce Foreign		Adoption/Adoption with
Partnership	Asbestos/Silica	☐ Non-Disclosure		∐Hab	Habeas Corpus		☐Child Protection ☐Child Support
Other Contract:	List Product:	Writ of Habeas Corpus—		Prot	☐Protective Order ☐Removal of Disabilities of Minority ☐Other:		Custody or Visitation
	Other Injury or Damage:		Other:				Grandporent Access Parentuge/Paternity
	Terminati			Termination of Parental Rights			
Employment	 	ber Civil		-			Other Parent-Child:
☐ Discrimination ☐ Retaliation	Administrative Appeal Antitrust/Unfair	□Pe	wyer Discipline rpetuate Testimony	1			
☐ Termination ☐ Workers' Compensation	Competition Code Violations	□īo	eurities/Stock ritious interference	1			
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Tax Delinquency	Dependent Administration			Guardianship—Minor			
Other Tax			☐Mental Health ☐Other:				
3. Indicate procedure or remedy				first lasting is			<u> </u>
Appeal from Municipal or Jus	Justice Court Declaratory Judgment Garnishment		geneni	Projudgment Remedy			
Atlachment	☐ Carnishment ☐Interpleader			Receiver			
Bill of Review	License		Sequestration			utut. n. i. a-t	
□Certiocaní □Class Action	. □ Mandamus : □ Post-judgment		Temporary Restraining Order/Injunction				
4. Indicate damages sought (do							
Less than \$100,000, including damages of any kind, penahics, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorney fees Less than \$100,000 and non-monetary relief							
Over \$100, 000 but not more than \$200,000 Over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000							
Over \$1,000,000							
							Rev 2/13

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